

ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE McNAMARAS

The McNamara confession is being used by trade-union haters as a basis for a general denunciation of the entire organized labor movement.

As usual, the I-told-you-so crowd grows with every hour, and former champions of the McNamaras, if not joining the general anvil chorus, remain discreetly silent.

Representatives of organized labor are being interviewed as to their opinions of the case, and its probable effect on the trade union cause.

Organized labor has done nothing in the McNamara case for which either to blush or apologize.

Organized labor, with its knowledge of the past to guide it, could not do otherwise than accept at its face value the apparently sincere McNamaras claim of not guilty.

Organized labor, in its liberal response to the call for financial and moral assistance, delivered to the world a sermon on unselfishness and devotion to principle that compelled the respect of skeptics, even if it did not convince them.

Organized labor, persecuted and hounded for years, through indifference to the principles to which it owed its existence, won public approval by proving its agency for good and not

evil. Organized labor, though often accused of being accepting but a

small portion of what it actually produces.

Organized labor, though often the victim of unjust laws framed by organized capital, has seldom violated them; it has done much to promote the interest of humanity, and hopes to do still more.

Organized labor's sympathy for the McNamaras was a natural result of its firm conviction that no person sincerely embracing the trades union creed and clearly understanding its aims and objects, could be guilty of malicious destruction of property or so horrifying a crime as that of deliberate and willful murder.

Organized labor further recognized that the general safety of the people depended upon observance of the country's laws that do not warrant punishing one crime with another; and the illegal kidnaping of the McNamaras opened up a question that had to be settled for all time, in order to establish whether the law could be robbed of its protective features with impunity.

Organized labor unselfishly assumed the task of demanding, not only for its self, but all the people, a ruling as to whether or not the much-lauded American constitutional guarantees of ordinary legal decency and fair play, were a reality or a delusion and a snare.

Organized labor recognized that in the actual question involved, the McNamaras played but a